



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release SEPTEMBER 19, 1958

AGREEMENT REACHED ON BROWNLEE DAM FISH PROBLEMS

Agreement by representatives of fishery agencies and the Idaho Power Company on matters pertaining to fishery facilities at Brownlee and Oxbow Dams on the Snake River was announced today at the Department of the Interior.

The announcement was made after an informal meeting in Washington, D. C., among representatives of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Oregon Fish Commission, the Oregon Water Resources Board, the Idaho Power Company, and staff members of the Federal Power Commission.

A synopsis of the matters agreed upon follows:

The fishery agencies commended the Idaho Power Company for its efforts in handling emergencies which arose as the result of erosion damage to the fish passage facilities at the Oxbow Dam site, downriver from Brownlee. The Power Company was in operation, as of today, emergency facilities designed to handle the fall run of chinook salmon now proceeding up the Snake River. Special entrapment facilities have been installed, and the fish are being transported by trucks to the waters above Brownlee dam to continue their annual migrations.

The Idaho Power Company stated that it is assuming responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the fish passage and fish handling facilities at the project.

The Company agreed to make an immediate payment of approximately \$75,000 in a lump sum to the Secretary of the Interior for use by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the State fishery agencies in the conduct of fish and wildlife studies in accordance with the project license. The Company has already advanced \$175,000 for this purpose. Difference of opinion had arisen about whether certain items of company expense could be considered as part of the \$250,000 to be made available under the license. Clarification of this matter resulted in the agreement on the amount still due for the studies.

The Company agreed to make divers available under the direction of the fishery agencies for the inspection of the Brownlee forebay fishery net and other fishery protective facilities.

All parties agreed that the Idaho Power Company should be permitted to continue operation of its first turbine at Brownlee dam until October 1, and announcement was made that the Federal Power Commission has transmitted the necessary order. The original FPC orders relative to the turbines stated that the fish protective facilities should be in operation before the starting of the turbine. Because of labor difficulties these protective facilities were not ready on scheduled time, and the Company has been operating one turbine on agreement with the fishery agencies and under special orders from the FPC.

It was agreed that the Company would have the right to test a second turbine before October 1.

The Company announced that it had been informed by the contractors that the protective facilities at Brownlee dam would be in place September 26, and would be inspected and operating by September 30. The Company also reported that the contractor had informed it that repair of the fish facilities at Oxbow dam would be completed by September 30.

It was also agreed that the effectiveness of the fish passage facilities would be fully evaluated and that some continuing program in this connection would be necessary. It was not determined whether the Company would carry on the program itself or would furnish the fishery agencies the funds for this work.

The fishery agencies stated that the \$250,000 made available by the Company through the Federal Power Commission for research on fishery problems might not be sufficient to complete the task.

The States of Washington, Oregon and Idaho and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service are directly concerned with Columbia River Basin fishery problems. The Fish and Wildlife Service is the coordinating agency.

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